

CONFIDENTIAL*Report***MAR 16 1949**

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Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

Reduction in Foreign Broadcast Monitoring

Reference: AD/DO Memorandum, dated 25 February 1949, Subject as Above

1. While it is regretted that it is necessary for HBC to reduce much of the western European monitor coverage, it is believed that no serious reporting gaps will result in the Scandinavian and Baltic countries inasmuch as information from those areas is satisfactorily monitored from other sources.

2. The discontinuance of coverage of western Germany and western Austria is, however, the source of considerable concern to ORE in view of the following facts:

a. Germany. [REDACTED] is one of the fastest sources of information and affords material not ordinarily received through normal channels for two days to one month, if at all. It frequently amplifies information otherwise reported in insufficient detail. The discontinuance of this valuable source, even with DANA and DPD news services maintained, is regretted.

b. Austria. The discontinuance of monitoring of western Austrian transmitters gives rise to an even more serious reporting lack than in the case of Germany. While previous coverage was not considered adequate, it had been anticipated that the service might eventually be improved. With the discontinuance of all radio coverage of western Austria, even coverage of APA news service is now out off, and all Austrian intelligence information through broadcast and press media is thereby eliminated, since the one transmitter in eastern Austria is Soviet controlled and utilized primarily for cultural purposes, normally contributing nothing of value to intelligence.

3. This office would be extremely interested in learning from [REDACTED] what measures are being contemplated to remedy the situation created by the HBC cutback, and what steps ORE may take [REDACTED]

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Addressee 0 & 1
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